today's squads

NORTHERN SPIRIT		MARCONI STALLIONS
John Perosh	1	
Robert Enes	2	Chad Gibson
Matthew Langdon	3	Mark Babic
Matthew Bingley	4	
Mark Rudan	5	Dominic Longo
Luke Casserly	6	Pan-Keun Kim
Robbie Slater (Cpt)	7	Christian Care
Tony Perinich	8	Darren McDonald
David Seal	9	Zeljko Babic
	10	Brad Maloney
Troy Cranney	11	Mike Smith
Simon Catanzaro	12	
Phil Moss	13	Danny Invincible
Shane Lyons	14	Buddy Farah
Tony Faria	15	Pierluigi Di Gia
Dean Culina	16	
Paul Bilokapic	17	Francis Awaritefe
Paul Wearne	18	Harry Karl
Graham Arnold (Coach)	19	Brendan Renaud
Jess Van Stratten	20	David Aceski
Michael Cunico	21	Paolo Marchesini
Paul Henderson	22	Kris Trajanovski
Adam Snyder	23	Vlado Zoric
Elvis Olic	24	
Ryan Griffiths	25	
Jack Sobczyk	26	
Adam Griffiths	27	
Abbas Saad	28	
Ian Crook	29	
Sean Cranney	30	Brett Hughes

Friday December 3rd, 1999

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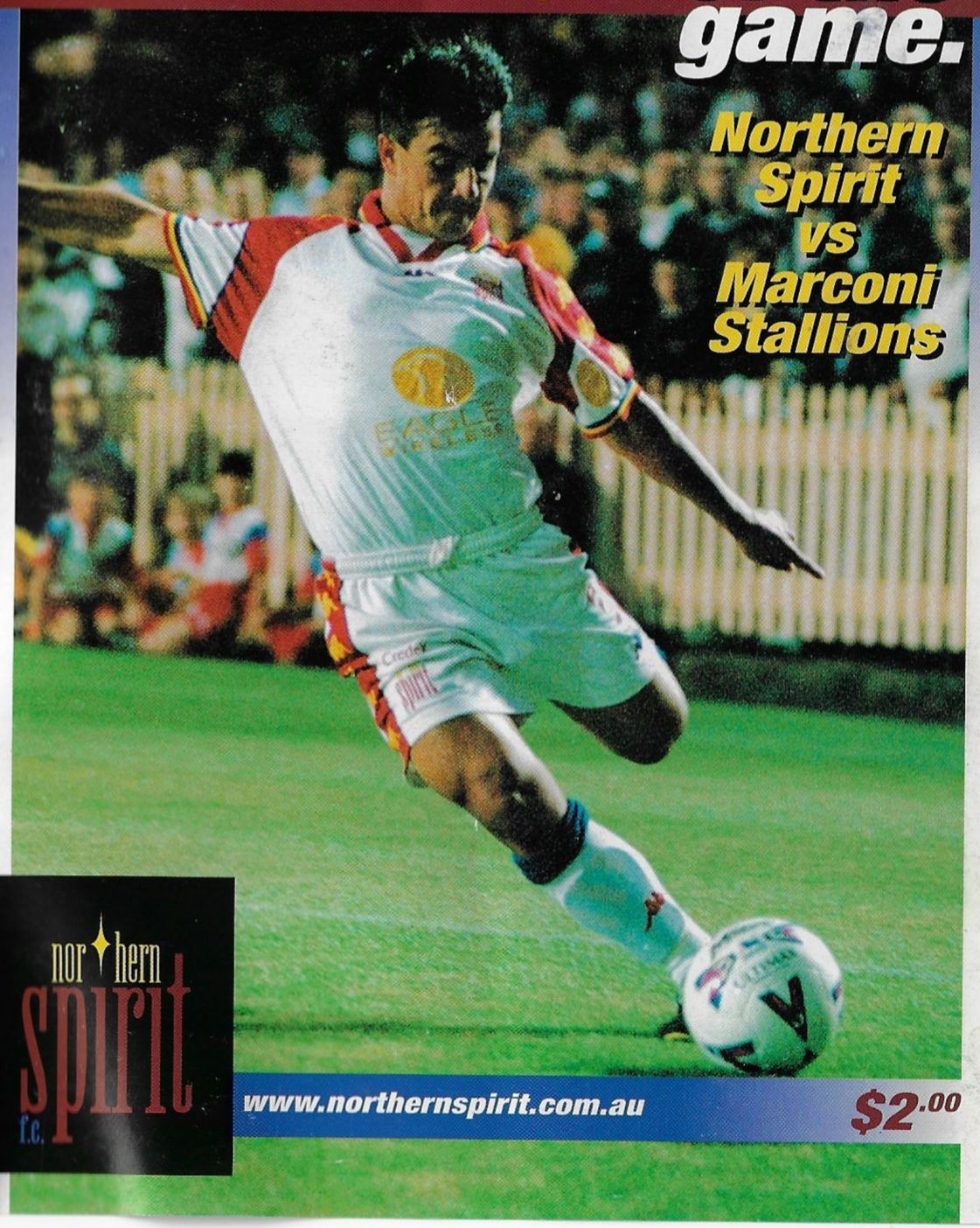
Official Matchday Souvenir Program



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North Sydney, NSW 2060
Ph: 02 9460 2187
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Email:
contact@northernspirit.com.au

Website:
www.northernspirit.com.au

President:
Kathryn Greiner

President:
Remo Nogarotto

Vice-Chaiman:
Emmanuel Zammit

Head Coach:
Graham Arnold

Assistant Coach:
Ian Crook

Club Physiotherapist:
Bill Collins

Youth Team Coach:
Gary Van Egmont

Colts Coach:
Trevor Morgan

Super-Youth Coach:
Sab Trovato

Goalkeeping Coach:
Steve Watson

Operation Manager:
Melissa Down

Membership & Supporter Liason Officer:
Micky Brock

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Danielle Kinsey

Media Director:
David Watson/Javelin

welcome

GRAHAM ARNOLD COLUMN

The past month has been very trying on everyone at Northern Spirit but this week we have acted and hopefully the changes we have made will help propel Northern Spirit back to the its rightful position near the top of the NSL.

I'm starting to sound like a broken record but our fans deserve better!

Last weekend against Gippsland we had about 40 people make the trip. We almost had more fans than Gippsland but the Northern Spirit supporters were dished up with rubbish.

Last week we threw open a training session and put on a BBQ for our loyal fans and more than 100 people showed up to watch us train.

We have to start rewarding these people and that time starts tonight.

As you will see I have made a few changes to the side and I have rewarded those who show pride in the Northern Spirit shirt.

When you are in trouble you need people around you who are desperate for the cause. People who lead from the front and people who over-achieve.

I have elevated a few people to the first grade side who I know will come off North Sydney Oval tonight absolutely stuffed.

I want to walk around the change room after the game, win lose or draw, that's not the issue, and see all 11 players and even the three substitutes if used, with red faces, struggling for breath and unable to walk.

We have placed ourselves in the unenviable position of propping up the table, running dead last in a competition many people thought we could win.

We now find ourselves in the trenches, fighting for our lives and it is this attitude I'll be looking for. Players throwing themselves into tackle putting their bodies on the line.

As you look at the squad don't just lay the blame entirely at the players I have left out. I can guarantee you there are a few more people who were on the verge of joining the youth team.

At the end of the day we are sitting last after nine rounds and we have to try something to pull ourselves out of the hole.

I have decided to go with a different tact and promote people who badly want to win and I'm confident in the 11 players you will see before you tonight.

Just by being here to read my column in the Match Day program proves that you are a very loyal supporter and one of the main reasons this club has given soccer a boost in this country.

All I ask is stay with us because there is no way Northern Spirit is going to remain in this position forever.

Marconi is always a tough game and tonight will be no different, as I'm sure they would love to kill us off for the season. But, I have 11 very hungry players about to come out onto the park with something to prove!

team news

Northern Spirit goalkeeper Jess Van Stratten covered himself in glory last weekend with a sparkling display between the sticks in the final of the FIFA U17 World Cup.

Jess made three magnificent saves in the dying stages of the game, twice denying Brazilian opponents with courageous dives at their feet in one-on-one situations.

Then, as the teams went into a dreaded penalty shoot out he saved brilliantly to put the Aussies back on level terms at 1-1 after two penalties each before doing everything but keep another penalty out.

His exploits were noticed by some of the best players the world has ever seen and there is little doubt he will continue Australia's fine tradition of developing exceptional goalkeeping talent.

I just hope he stays long enough for the Northern Spirit fans to see what he can do!

As we marvel at the exploits of the Joeys and look forward with anticipation to Australia's next tilt at qualification for the 2002 World Cup Northern Spirit is showcasing the talents of our forgotten national side - the Matildas.

The Australian Women's Soccer side will take on Sweden at North Sydney Oval on January 7 as part of a four-nation tournament

The Australia v Sweden match is the curtain raiser to Northern Spirit's clash with Sydney United and gives the many female Northern Spirit fans the chance to see the Australian team run around.

It also gives the Matildas some much needed exposure to the Australian public so get down to North Sydney Oval on January 7 and support the Matildas.

For those of you who saw the Matildas in their calendar launch this week, there's no truth to the rumour they will be turning out in similar gear.

They will wear their Australian strip with pride on North Sydney Oval.

Northern Spirit goalkeeper will be hoping for a belated birthday present tonight after turning 26 on Monday.

JP is one of the players who can hold his head high after last weekend's loss with press reports he fumbled the ball leading up to Gippsland's first goal way wide of the mark.

The reason he fumbled the ball was more to do with the pathetic state of the pitch at Falcons Stadium with the ball taking off from a good length after hitting one of the many speed humps.

While on birthdays, Robbie Slater let his slide by quietly recently but that's understandable when you have had as many as Robbie has.

Despite his age his presence is sadly lacking, as was shown when he steered the club to victory against Auckland. The sooner he is back on the pitch the better.

While Northern Spirit players, supporters and coaching staff are doing it tough through the recent rough patch, spare a thought for Kresimir Marusic in Belgium.

Kresh is currently serving an eight-week suspension following his second yellow card and is alone in Belgium where they speak very little English and no Croatian (which he also speaks).

Add to this the fact that his wife is on holiday in Croatia and it is minus three degrees at the moment and he is not exactly having the time of his life.

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sounds kewell to me

Even though I couldn't make it back to Australia to play for the Socceroos against Brazil I have been keeping up to date with the progress of Northern Spirit in recent weeks.

I was happy to hear they have turned the corner and started to show the same form which took them to the semi finals last season but the result against Gippsland has put them back on their heels.

One positive thing in Northern Spirit's favour is the length of this year's NSL. 34 weeks is a long time and it gives teams the chance to recover from a bad start.

Just like the English Premier League, where I am currently playing for Leeds United, it allows teams to go through a bad patch and still challenge for the title.

Recently Leeds United had a great run of victories and it sent us to the top of the English Premier League after a scratchy start.

Northern Spirit now has the same opportunity to climb the league ladder in the NSL!

I certainly hope they do because the future success of the National Soccer League will be helped significantly if Northern Spirit continues to attract big crowds and we all know that good results help attract the crowds.

One thing I was happy to hear during the week was that a few young boys were getting a start with Northern Spirit over the past few matches.

I for one think the introduction of young players is a great idea having been there myself with Leeds United. Young players inject enthusiasm and, if complimented by talented and experienced players, it can only help the side.

The match against Marconi should be very special for one reason - it is a derby, and I'm told it is a derby with some real passion.

There is something about derby matches that gets the crowd involved in the match and I hope the game against Marconi has the atmosphere a derby deserves.

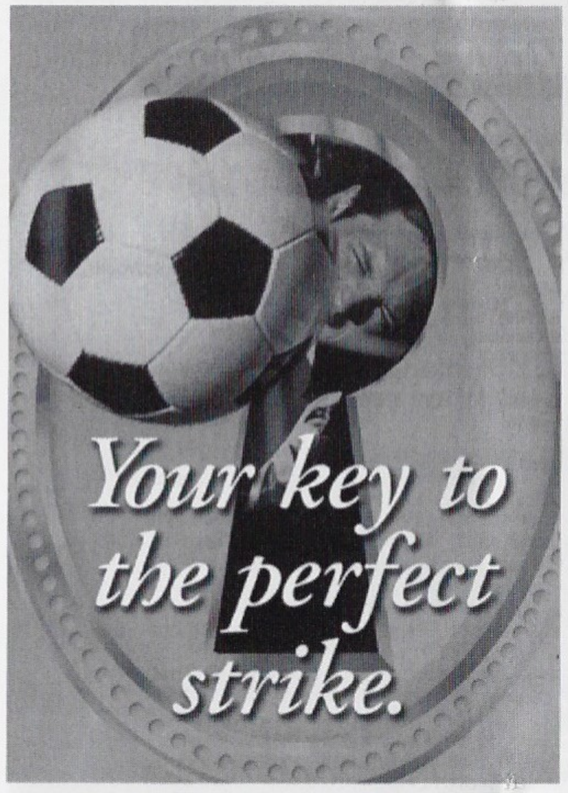
Of course, in football, the most important thing is picking up the three points so hopefully Arnie and the boys can get it together and get over the top of Marconi in front of a big crowd at North Sydney Oval.

Playing for Leeds United the local derby is one thing that has been missing until this year with the elevation of Bradford into the Premier League.

We had our first derby last week at Elland Road and the atmosphere was remarkable. Unfortunately I couldn't play as I was the meat in the sandwich between Leeds and Soccer Australia and Soccer Australia banned me from the match under FIFA rules.

It was a double disappointment as I was presented with the Carling Player of the Month award, which is a great honour, before the game and then I had to go back to the grandstand to watch the boys go around.

This is something that I'm really upset about because it's something I had very little control over. As everyone has seen even the world's most famous player Ronaldo can not dictate to his club and had to return to Italy.



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fans eye view

by Tancred Fergus

What a difference a win at home can make. The 8,933 strong crowd witnessed an much improved Northern Spirit team defeat the Football Kingz and the atmosphere and excitement that followed each of the three Spirit goals reflected not only the realise of the frustration felt by many of the fans, but also showed that the team are well on their way to playing that attractive style of Football, so admired last season.

It's such a change in the national league to have a ground such as Spirit Park , where noise and colour is generated all around the ground and not just from a spruker with a microphone and a pre recorded tape (and if you are wondering which clubs I am referring to you should travel to more away games for the answer). For those looking for a more family orientated supporters area Chris Wainwright & John Crowley have begun such a group on the hill. If your interested you should try and catch up with them at the next home game and join in with the singing.

Over the Christmas - New years break Northern Spirit are travelling down to Canberra to play to Canberra Cosmos on December 28th. Not only is the an excellent opportunity to check out a venue where part of the Olympic Football tournament is to be held, it is also an excellent chance to experience what it's like to follow Northern Spirit to away games. The supporters club is running coaches for this event (Call John on 0412 178 666) but many more people will be driving down. I hope to see many of you down there.

Speaking of Olympic Football, on January 7th Spirit Park will host the Australian Womens national team, the Matildas, when they play Sweden. With the excellent atmosphere generated for Spirit home game I am sure many of you will make the effort to attend this International fixture and support our women Footballers. It would be great if Sweden could return home knowing how strong Football passion runs in Australia and it would also give a boost to the Matildas as they prepare for the Sydney 2000 Football tournament.

This page is for the fans and as such we would love to hear any thoughts or comments you might have. Please mail them to us via the club:

C/- Micky Brock
Northern Spirit FC
13-15 Ridge Street
North Sydney
NSW 2060

The Northern Spirit Supporters Committee is here for you, the fans. We have people sitting in most parts of the ground and we not only provide away travel, but also liaise between the Football Club and the fans. We ran a very successful end of season supporters night after last season and are currently looking at having a Christmas get together. To provide feedback or ask any questions please phone our info line on 8250 4004 and leave a message or look at www.spirit.life.nu

IF YOU ALL LOVE SPIRIT CLAP YOUR HANDS...

. . . and contact Northern Spirit Supporters Club to join with matchday entertainment or to find out about travel arrangements for state and interstate away games (infoline 8250 4004).

The supporters club also organises open-days and other Northern Spirit Events for fans.

Phone Julian Floyd on 0411 028 765 or visit the supporters club website: www.spirit.life.nu

Your supporters committee is:
Tancred fergus: tfergus@mail.usyd.edu.au
Tel: 0412 231 777
John McCormack:
John.McCormack@cwo.com.au
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Julian Floyd: julianfloyd@yahoo.com
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merchandise

Check out the great range of Spirit merchandise available at the booth under the scoreboard tonight !!

Northern spirit members receive a 10% discount on all items upon presentation of their membership card along with one other form of ID.
Items available range from Authentic

Northern Spirit Home & Away Jerseys, Shorts, Socks, Tracksuits, Training Jerseys, Bags, Polos & T- Shirts.
Other items include; Beanies, Caps, Scarves, Flags, Key Rings & Lapels.

SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION XMAS OFFER! Don't miss out on this very special offer.

Harry Kewell - Spirit's Number 1 Supporter - has offered us a restricted number of his limited edition individually signed and numbered Harry Kewell colour prints.

A limited release of only 2000, each print comes with a letter of authenticity. Usually retailing $99, they are available for $25 each ($22 for members) and make a great Xmas gift idea.

Mail Order

Supporter-wear can be ordered over the phone through Spirit HQ (see contact details below). A complete Mail Order Catalogue will be available from Spirit HQ and posted to all members in early December.

Coming Soon

Check out our on-line club shop on www.northernspirit.com.au (open early December).
For merchandise enquiries, phone Melissa or Danielle at Spirit HQ on 9460 2187.

captains call

with... MATTHEW BINGLEY

Being the Captain of any side is what one aspires to and I feel honoured to lead out the Northern Spirit team, both home and away. I like that feeling, even though things have not been going all that well for us at the moment, and to act as the skipper of the side in the absence of Robbie Slater, a player whom I admire greatly, is like the cherry atop the cake..

With respect to our poor performances, the team isn't playing as well as we would all like it to be, but in saying that, we are not giving up as we are only nine rounds into the season and we know we can turn this around in the coming weeks.

I'd like to thank our long suffering fans for all of their support . It is greatly appreciated and on behalf of the players and coaching staff we would like to offer you a collective 'thank-you' for getting behind us this season. To see so many of you down in Gippsland was surprising and we didn't give our travelling fans, or ourselves, the game we would have liked, but as I've already said, we will turn this around and need the fans to be a part of this.

Tonight's game is against my former club Marconi, and obviously they have become our arch-rivals in the space of two short seasons. We will be looking to turn around the defeat we suffered at their hands three weeks ago at Bossley Park and for me personally, and Luke Casserly of course, with the help of my fellow players we will be looking to inflict a defeat upon them, especially against so many of my poor team mates who still wear the blue and white.

I know it's hard for the fans as we keep saying that we will turn this poor form around. It's hard times for you the supporters and also for the club and players, but if we all stick together and stay as one unit, we will get through this and look back on the 'dark old days' in the near future.

GET INTO THE VOLVO HALF TIME SHOOTOUT !

Tonight catch the celebrity Volvo half-time shootout presented by Mix106.5FM directly after the regular shootout. Tonight's shootout will be hosted by Rob Duckworth from Mix106.5FM.

Celebrities competing tonight include;

Kylie Gillies - Channel 7
Cliff Lyons - Manly Warringah Sea Eagles
Matthew White - Channel 10
Kyle Patterson - SBS

The crew will be battling it out to win a Northern Spirit Team Signed Home Jersey & a collection of CD's from Mix106.5FM

You can get your entry forms for the Volvo Shootout from the Spirit Match Day Volunteers around the ground. Fill out the form and hand back to the volunteers. The winning entries will announced at Half Time each week.

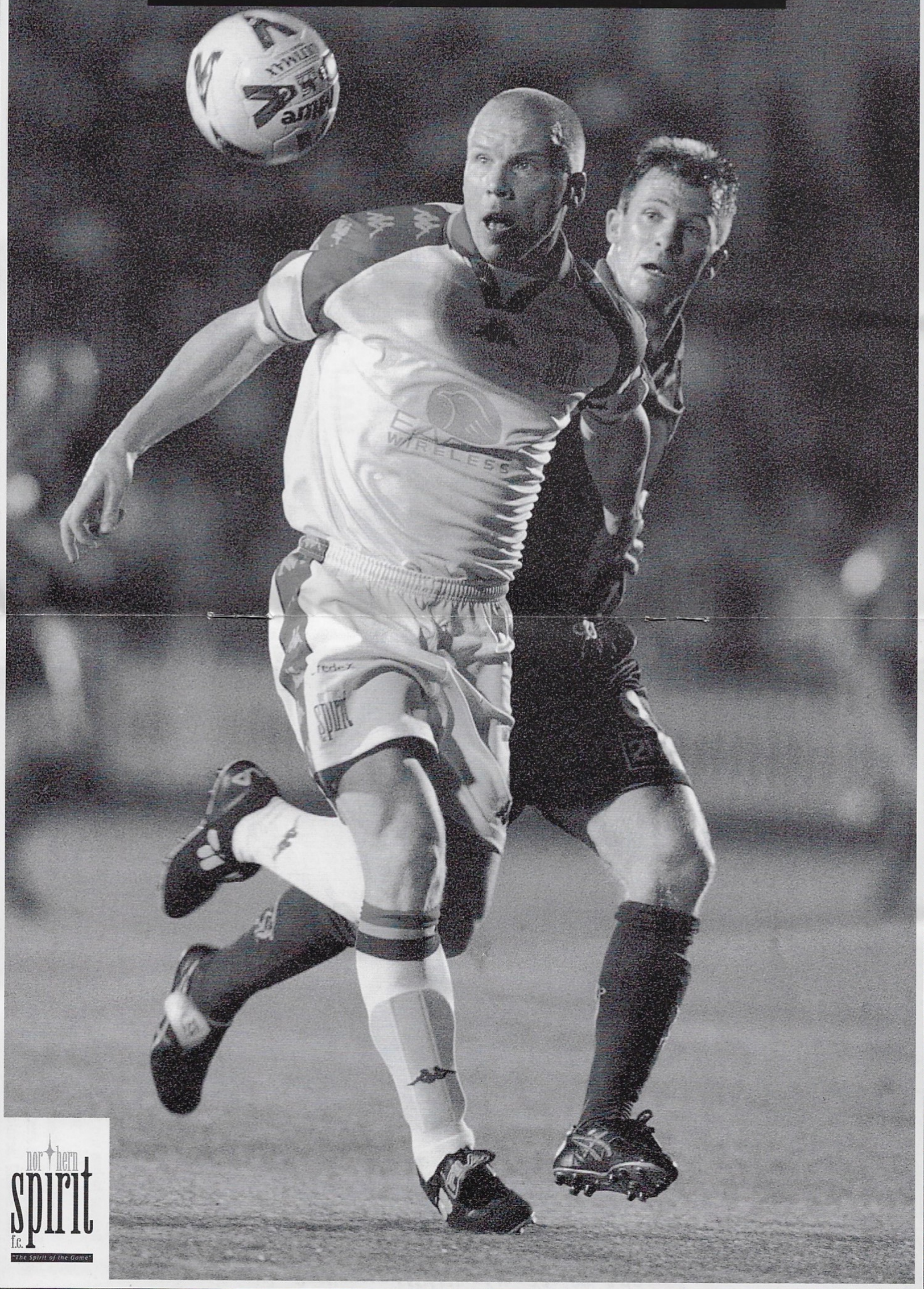
What you can win;

1st Prize - Volvo S401.8 for the weekend
2nd Prize - Northern Spirit Cap
3rd Prize - Volvo Cap

The winner from each week will go into the Grand Final, which will be held at our last home game of the season against Parramatta Power on Friday 28th April, 2000.

Finalists names on April 28 will be drawn from hat to determine kicking order. Entrants will receive one kick in nominated order. The first person to kick the ball through the nominated hole will win a Volvo S401.8 Manual Sedan valued at up to $44,935.

SPIRIT CAPTAIN ROBBIE SLATER



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membership

THIS season we have two membership clubs - Mix 106.5FM Club Spirit for adults and 9inety6ix.1 Club H for supporters under the age of 17. Joining the Club is the best way to support Northern Spirit.

Prices are just $45 for Mix 106.5FM Club Spirit or $25 for 9inety6ix.1 Club H. Season passes offer great savings compared to buying a ticket on a match by match basis and include club membership. So you still save money even after the season has started.

We're having a Members day at North Sydney No 2 Oval on Sunday 5 December. It will be a great day for meeting the players and celebrating. So don't hesitate, just join the Club.

If you need a form ring the office on 9460 2187 and ask for me or email me on brockie@northernspirit.com.au **Micky Brock**

9inety6ix.1 'Club H'

Hurry and join the Northern Spirit's newest membership club, 'Club H'. Tailored exclusively for supporters under the age of 17yrs, it features the two biggest 'H's in Australian Soccer - Harry Kewell and Paul Henderson. It's free to Season Pass holders. It offers great value for just $25.

You get:

- Personalised Membership Card
- Chances to be a Mascot at one of 16 home games.
- Admission to Post Match Function at home games with the players.
- Invitation to special "Members Only Day".
- Kappa/Northern Spirit Water Bottle.
- 10% Discount on all Northern Spirit Camps and Academies.
- Northern Spirit Fridge Magnet listing all home fixtures.
- Northern Spirit Bumper Sticker.
- Opportunity to purchase exclusive Northern Spirit Member's Merchandise.
- Regular correspondence from the club
- Priority booking at our end of season "Presentation Night".
- 10% Discount on Mail-order Merchandise
- PLUS the Club is negotiating for big savings for members at entertainment venues and retail stores. Details soon!

MIX 106-5 FM 'Club Spirit'

is the Club for adult members. It's free to Season Pass holders. Otherwise it's great value for just $45.

Member benefits include:

- Personalised Membership Card.
- Admission to Post Match Function at home games with the players.
- Invitation to special "Members Only Day".
- Kappa/Northern Spirit Cap.
- Northern Spirit Fridge Magnet listing all home fixtures.
- Northern Spirit Bumper Sticker.
- Opportunity to purchase exclusive Northern Spirit Member's Merchandise.
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spirit at home

By Micky Brock

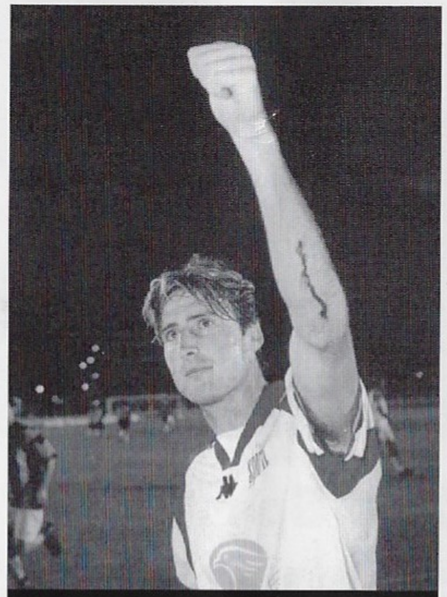
Northern Spirit 3 (Bingley 34, Saad 38, Slater 84)
Football Kingz 2 (Stergiopoulos 17, Osman 88)

Northern Spirit broke their home losing streak at the third attempt in fine style against our rivals from across the Tasman in the Football Kingz with three well taken goals although it wasn't all plain sailing.

The home side should have been three-up inside the first fifteen minutes but for a catalogue of missed chances and some excellent goalkeeping by Michael Utting for the visitors, and a certain amount of luck?

With only eight minutes on the clock Troy Cranney headed powerfully toward goal only to see Utting block the attempt and then Saad had his shot saved on the goal-line, although Utting appeared to drag the ball back over the line after seemingly having already crossed for a goal.

In between times Matt Bingley had skipped his way through the defence before his low powerful drive was well handled by the Kingz custodian as he turned it around the upright for a corner.


Luke Casserly - bloodied not bowed

Against the run of plat, Marcus Stergiopoulos opened the scoring the Kingz in the 17th minute when latching on to a poor clearance and, with the Spirit defenders expecting a pass, waltzed through to score.

Spirit fought back strongly and in the 34th minute it was Matt Bingley who drew the scores level. Receiving the ball from a long clearance by John Perosh in the Spirit goal once more, he brought it under control with a magnificent first touch and took it past one defender before drawing Utting off his line and planting the ball delicately past him and into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

Four minutes later and an almost repeat performance this time saw Abbas Saad beat Utting in the same fashion, leaving question marks about the 'keepers left side.

Robbie Slater, playing his first game since recovering from a niggling calf injury, then extended the Spirit lead with six minutes remaining, although it took him two attempts to manage it. His first sizzling effort was well reached by Utting once more but his follow up shot nearly blasted through the net.

Spirit were playing with style and poise but received a nasty scare when Levent Osman was allowed a free header inside the box in the 88th minute. The home side looked a little rattled after this and the additional stoppage time at the end of the half seemed like hours instead of minutes.

However, Spirit weathered the storm and collected all three points at home for the first time this season, much to the delight of the loyal supporters in attendance.

spirit away

By Micky Brock

Gippsland Falcons 2 (Puca 21, Mandic 27) - Northern Spirit 0

Around forty Northern Spirit supporters braved the biting wind and rugged journey to Morwell to watch the team play. Unfortunately, they were left with little to cheer about as Spirit left the La Trobe valley with nothing to show for the trip south to Victoria.

The Falcons had suffered two straight defeats prior to this match and with Spirit gaining only their second win of the season in the previous round, it didn't take too much working out that this would be a closely fought contest at Mobil Park.

Gippsland, to the credit of their coach Geoff Hopkins, altered their playing style and adopted a three-man attack, including new recruit Igor Mandic making his debut for the club. Doug Marcina was positioned in midfield so as not to disrupt the Falcons too greatly and it proved a move well worth making.

Spirit started the game brightly enough and held the ball up well when playing into gale-force winds, and slowly but surely the home side began to use this to their advantage with Perosh needing to be on the top of his game to block an absolute screamer from Clayton Bell from fully 30-metres out.

Two minutes later and the Falcons hit the front in spectacular fashion. Picking up a free-kick 25-metres out from goal, Robbie Puca hit a sweetly struck shot that curled around the wall and into the top left-hand corner of the goal that gave Perosh no chance.

The lead was further extended six-minutes later from a goal that looked suspiciously off-side. Mehmed Durakovic hit a long clearance from the Falcons defence which found John Hutchinson in space and he attempted a shot that bounced wickedly just in front of the Spirit 'keeper and rebounded forward off his chest.

Juan Milo was the first to react for the home side and his pass to Igor Mandic, in the offside position, saw the new striker with an open goal from four-metres out. Questions were asked about the slack marking in the area by the Spirit defenders but the goal stood as neither th referee nor his assistant saw anything wrong.

Mandic was booked for 'over celebration' of the goal, a caution that would prove costly later on. With 56-minutes on the clock, Mandic was booked for dissent as he kicked away the ball when Spirit were awarded a free-kick in their own half and showed a petulance that coach Geoff Hopkins will need to stamp on immediately if he is to make an impact for the Falcons this term.

After the send-off, Gippsland packed the defence and defended their lead stoutly and fully deserved their two-nil victory after seeing off a very disappointing Northern Spirit side.

Said Hopkins after the game: "It was always going to be a difficult game and an important one for both sides. It was imperative that the lads worked hard, especially in the second-half, and we had no choice but to adopt a lone striker up front from that point onwards.

"Robbie Puca's finish was excellent and we have been working hard on set plays for a number of weeks now and today it finally paid off."

Graham Arnold was too distraught to comment after the match, but Assistant Coach Ian Crook stated: "That performance was just not good enough."

Neither Arnold nor Crook would elaborate further after the game and it was a long, quiet, reflective flight home to Sydney on Saturday night.

results & fixtures

DATE	ROUND	HOME	AWAY	RESULT	SCORER	ATTEND
Monday October 4th	1.		Sydney United	0-2 Win	Seal, Slater	5,023
Sunday October 10th	2.		South Melbourne	2-0 Loss		6,917
Friday October 15th	3.	Newcastle Breakers		0-2 Loss		12,733
Saturday October 23rd	4.		Brisbane Strikers	2-2 Draw	Bingley, Saab	4,009
Friday October 29th	5.	Sydney Olympic		0-1 Loss		16,134
Sunday November 7th	6.		Wollongong Wolves	3-0 Loss		5,679
Saturday November 13th	7.		Marconi	0-1 Loss		9,123
Friday November 19th	8.	Auckland Kingz		3-2 Win	Bingley, Saab, Slater	-
Saturday November 27th	9.		Gippsland Falcons	2-0 Loss		-

DATE	ROUND	HOME	AWAY	KICK-OFF	VENUE
Friday December 3rd	10.	Marconi		7.30pm	
Sunday December 12th	11.		Melbourne Knights	6pm	Knights Stadium
Friday December 17th	12.	Adelaide Force		7.30pm	
Tuesday December 28th	13.		Canberra Cosmos	7.30pm	Bruce Stadium
Sunday January 2nd	14.	Brisbane Strikers		7.30pm	
Friday Januuary 7th	15.	Sydney United		7.30pm	
Friday January 14th	16.	Perth Glory		7.30pm	
Friday January 21st	17.		Carlton	7.30pm	Olympic Park
Wednesday January 26th	18.	Carlton		7.30pm	
Friday January 28th	19.		Parramatta Power	7.30pm	Parramatta Stadium
Friday February 4th	20.	South Melbourne		7.30pm	
Friday February 11th	21.		Newcastle Breakers	7.30pm	Breakers Stadium
Friday February 18th	22.	Brisbane Strikers		7.30pm	
Sunday February 27th	23.		Sydney Olympic	6.30pm	Belmore Oval
Friday March 3rd	24.	Wollongong Wolves		7.30pm	
Friday March 10th	25.	Marconi		7.30pm	
Friday March 17th	26.		Auckland Kingz	7.30pm	North Harbour Stadium
Friday March24th	27.	Gippsland Falcons		7.30pm	
Sunday April 2nd	28.		Marconi	6pm	Marconi Stadium
Friday April 7th	29.	Melbourne Knights		7.30pm	
Friday April 14th	30.		Adelaide Force	8pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Thursday April 20th	31.	Canberra Cosmos		7.30pm	
Tuesday April 25th	32.		Brisbane Strikers	7pm	Suncorp Metway Stadium
Friday April 28th	33.	Parramatta Power		7.30pm	
Sunday May 7th	34.		Perth Glory	3pm	Perth Oval

HOME: All home games will take place at North Sydney Oval, unless notified otherwise
AWAY: Travel arrangements to games can be made through the Northern Spirit Supporters Club (infoline tel: 8250 4004).

statistics

NSL TABLE ROUND 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Home Avg Att
Brisbane Str	8	5	3	0	12	6	18	4690
Syd Olympic	8	5	2	1	13	6	17	5681
Carlton	8	4	3	1	14	6	15	3286
Wollongong	8	4	3	1	17	13	15	4606
Marconi Stal	8	4	2	2	13	13	14	6701
Perth Glory	8	3	3	2	16	10	12	13667
Sth Melbourne	8	3	2	3	12	8	11	7392
Canberra Cos	8	3	2	3	12	9	11	3547
Parra Power	8	3	2	3	14	13	11	6110
Football Kingz	8	2	2	4	12	17	8	5346
Sydney Utd	8	2	2	4	5	10	8	3603
Newcastle Brks	8	1	4	3	10	13	7	5178
Adelaide Force	8	1	4	3	5	9	7	5538
Northern Spirit	8	2	1	5	7	13	7	12600
Gippsland Fal	8	1	3	4	4	10	6	2123
Melb Knights	8	2	0	6	7	17	6	3389

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES 1999/2000

	Aps	Sub	Gls	Y/C	R/C	NSL TOTALS Aps	NSL TOTALS Gls
P Henderson*	4	-	-	-	-	34	-
R Enes	5	-	-	1	1	87	1
M Langdon	8	-	-	1	-	31	-
M Bingley	7	-	2	1	-	206	39
M Rudan	7	1	-	4	-	87	8
L Casserly	7	-	-	1	-	146	3
R Slater	5	-	2	1	-	222	55
T Perenich	2	-	-	-	-	74	18
D Seal	7	1	1	1	-	111	59
T Cranney	8	-	-	1	-	210	16
S Catanzaro	-	3	-	-	-	3	-
P Bilokapic	6	1	-	2	-	125	11
G Arnold	2	1	-	-	-	205	72
J Perosh*	4	-	-	-	-	35	-
M Cunico	-	6	-	-	-	27	1
J Sobczyk	4	1	-	-	-	6	-
A Saad	2	3	2	-	-	166	52
S Cranney	1	2	-	-	-	132	16
I Crook	3	-	-	1	-	15	2
C Zane	3	-	-	1	-	100	20
P Moss	-	1	-	-	-	22	-
A Faria	-	1	-	-	-	4	-
R Griffiths	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
A Grffiths	2	-	-	-	-	2	-

youth & colts

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

RESULTS

ROUND 1

Sydney Utd Yth	F*	NS Youth	F*
Marconi Colts	P**	NS Colts	P**

ROUND 2

Newctle Colts	2	NS Youth	3
Syd Utd Colts	0	NS Colts	0

ROUND 3

NS Youth	1	Newctle Yth	0
NS Colts	4	Newctle Colts	1

ROUND 4

NSWIS	1	NS Youth	1
Newctle Yth	1	NS Colts	1

ROUND 5

NS Youth	1	Syd Oly Yth	2
NS Colts	2	NSWIS	1

ROUND 6

Syd Olympic	1	NS Colts	1
Wollongong	0	NS Youth	1

ROUND 7

NS Youth	bye		
NS Colts	P**	W'gong Wlvs	P**

ROUND 8

NS Colts	bye	AIS	1
NS Youth	2		

United forfeit game* Postponed**

NORTHERN DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	5	5	0	1	26	4	15
Parra Power	5	5	0	0	19	1	15
NS Youth	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Syd Olympic	4	3	1	0	9	2	10
NS Colts	5	2	2	1	7	4	8
ACTAS	5	2	2	1	10	11	8
QAS	4	2	1	1	15	5	7
NSWIS	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Syd Oly Acad	4	2	0	2	10	14	6
Wollongong	5	2	0	3	3	7	6
Newcastle Brks	6	2	0	4	4	9	6
Sydney Utd	3	1	1	1	3	9	4
Syd Utd Colts	6	1	1	4	7	14	4
Marconi Stal	3	1	0	2	2	9	3
Wollongong Colts	4	0	1	3	4	14	1
Marconi Stal Colts	4	0	1	3	0	11	1
Newcastle Colts	5	0	0	5	4	14	0

COLTS TEAM APPEARANCES

	Aps	Sub	Gls	Y/C	R/C
C Sharpe*	3	-	-	-	-
D Anderson	4	-	-	1	-
C Jones	4	-	-	-	-
P Wearne	2	-	-	-	-
G McLean	2	1	-	-	-
A Monteleone	4	-	-	-	-
N Vasili	4	-	1	1	-
A Snyder	2	-	2	1	-
L Berbis	4	-	-	-	-
C Talevski	4	-	-	-	-
A Faria	2	-	1	-	-
J Majurovski	2	2	2	-	-
R Enes	1	-	-	1	-
M Cunico	1	-	-	-	-
T Perenich	1	-	1	1	-
N Foti	-	3	-	-	-
M Sutton	1	1	-	-	-
P Dougheney	1	-	-	-	-
I Church	1	-	-	-	-
A Saginian	-	1	-	-	-
A Griffiths	1	-	-	-	-
D Watkins	-	1	-	-	-
S Teofilo	-	1	-	-	-

* Goalkeepers

YOUTH TEAM APPEARANCES

	Aps	Sub	Gls	Y/C	R/C
J Perosh*	3	-	-	-	-
A Snyder	5	-	-	1	-
E Olic	7	-	-	1	-
R Griffiths	5	-	1	-	-
J Sobczyk	3	-	-	1	-
A Griffiths	4	-	1	-	-
J Monie	5	1	4	-	-
D Kane	6	1	1	1	-
T MacRae	6	1	-	2	1
S Catanzaro	4	-	-	3	(1)
R Kathel	7	-	-	2	-
S Miller	6	-	-	2	-
P Antar	-	3	-	-	-
A Israel	-	2	-	-	-
C Sharp*	1	-	-	-	-
P Bilokapic	1	-	-	-	-
D Culina	3	-	-	1	-
M Cunico	2	-	-	-	-
J Hamilton	-	1	-	-	-
P Henderson*	3	-	-	-	-
P Moss	1	-	-	-	-
M Prentice	2	-	-	1	-
D Brickell	-	1	-	-	-
S Lyons	1	-	-	-	-

* Goalkeepers

team news

Northern Spirit striker Clayton Zane finally left Australia on Monday, bound for Norway and his new club Molde FC.

Zane will join the rest of the Molde first grade squad for three weeks of training before they split for a one-month break. They will then get back together for a short pre season tour before the season starts.

While the thought of a one-month break in Europe is appealing it can't be much better than spending the past month lying on Manly Beach.

Some people may have been wondering why he didn't continue with Northern Spirit but although still in the country he was a Molde FC player and the risk of injury prevented him from playing.

An update on our desperate attempt to shed a positive spin on our start to the season and seek out a light at the end of the tunnel.

Last season we didn't play Auckland so it doesn't count but last week's loss to Gippsland was only one point worse than the 1-1 draw last year.

The problem lies ahead. Over the next five weeks we need four wins and a draw. Let's hope things turn around soon.

The Northern Spirit website is continuing to rank up there with the best sport websites in Australia.

Last week the official Northern Spirit website was rankled 15th in the Australian Sport Top 100 sporting websites.

Recently the website underwent some big changes with information placed on the site with more regularity and also promptness following matches.

Supporters can also plug into match previews with comments from Graham Arnold and the squad every Thursday.

On top of the updated information the website carries profiles, with photos, of all Northern Spirit players as well as general information on the club, its structure and most importantly, its football team.

As we approach Christmas why not head down to the merchandise van at the southern end of North Sydney Oval and buy that someone special something special from the Northern Spirit catalogue.

Everything from shirts to hats to flags can be purchased and it certainly beats working your way through the crush at shopping centres leading into the Christmas rush.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jess Van Stratten is the youngest player in the squad, while at the opposite end of the scale Ian Crook is the oldest.

Matthew Langdon is the shortest player at 168cm and Paul Bilokapic is the tallest player at 194cm.

Luke Casserly has played the most first grade games for Northern Spirit with 34 appearances while Robbie Slater has played the most NSL matches with 222.

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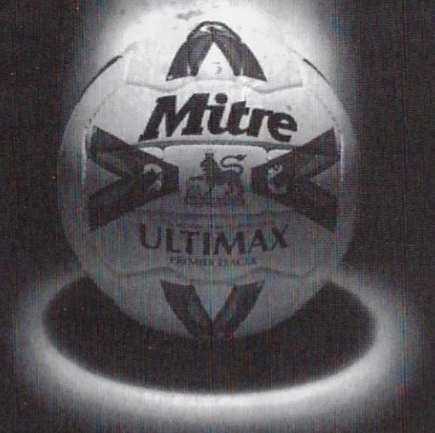

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MARCONI STALLIONS

Through a quirk of fixtures fate, due to the fall from grace of the Adelaide Sharks and their subsequent departure from the league, we tonight tackle the Stallions for the first of two regular season games on our home patch, having already played them at their ground earlier this year.

In what has become probably the fastest grown of all Sydney rivalries, we again tonight face the Marconi Stallions, from the western suburbs, here at 'Spirit Park'. And in only our second year of NSL football, there have been some titanic struggles witnessed between the two clubs that has seen some of the football played, not always for the purist, that has done nothing to diminish what should be a keenly fought contest between these two teams whenever they meet. It may not have diminished from the spectacle, but it certainly has produced some excellent displays of hard attacking football and plenty of no-nonsense defending. Indeed, the supporters of Northern Spirit have certainly targeted a couple of the Stallions players for 'special' treatment with several humourous ditties because of the above.

Francis Awaritefe and Darren McDonald seem to take most of the flak, but both shoulder the responsibility and accept it as part and parcel of the game. 'Frannie' openly acknowledges that he loves to hear the crowd bating him, it gives him the extra incentive to do better and what better way to silence a crowd than to put one in the back of the net. 'Macca' is similar in approach and, although not a prolific scorer of goals, often manages the last ditch tackle and is known in time honoured fashion for being 'hard but fair' in his approach to the game.

Marconi are one of the traditional bastions of the Australian soccer league and can boast many honours over the years, but for all their achievement in the code, they cannot attract a supporter base of over 4,000 per game on average and to make matters worse, their biggest crowd of last season was when Northern Spirit visited for the last match of the campaign - 10,117 - at least 65% of which were visiting fans. In the 2nd-leg of the two match play-off in the Finals, Spirit supporters again arrived 'en masse' when the recorded attendance was some 11,319. Once more, most of those attending were Spirit fans.

In a reversal of fortunes, Spirit have struggled to recapture the form that catapulted them into Top Six contention last season while the Stallions have shrugged off a shaky start to the campaign and are handily placed near the top. However, they are still to find the net at 'Spirit Park' and in the two matches they have played here, have lost four-nil in the league and drawn nil-all in the first-leg of the Final's.

New coach Eddie Krncevic will want that statistic dismissed in this game but it should prove harder to erase than many imagine. With both sides primed for action in this one, the visitors will be out for the early goal, but with the rampaging wingers taking it to Marconi on the flanks, a midfield full of artistry and a resolute defence, backed by either John Perosh or Paul Henderson, if he can dislodge 'JP' from the starting line-up, Spirit are looking fit, mean and ready to tame

HEAD TO HEAD (ALL SEASONS)

	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	1	1	0	0	4	0
AWAY	2	0	0	2	0	2
FINALS	2	0	1	1	1	2